

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :  
Yoko SUZUKI et al. :  
Serial No. NEW : **Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH**  
Filed January 29, 2004 : Attorney Docket No. 2004-0145  
  
SUBSTRATE TRANSPORT APPARATUS,  
POD AND METHOD  
(Rule 1.53(b) Continuation  
of Serial No. 10/000,304,  
Filed December 4, 2001)

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of ☒ the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and/or ☐ the additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 and each U.S. patent application listed below is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for each reference previously cited by or submitted to the Patent Office in prior parent application Serial No. 10/000,304.

1a. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, **or**

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

**and thus no certification and/or fee is required.**

1b. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

(1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**

(2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

**the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and**

**the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.**

2. It is hereby certified

a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or

b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
- a. ☐ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
  - b. ☐ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
  - c. ☐ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page ,
  - d. ☐ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
  - e. ☐ the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
5. ☐ A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoko SUZUKI et al.

By 

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January 29, 2004

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE A LATE FEE IN THE  
FEES FOR THE PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: January 29, 2004

ATTY DOCKET NO.  
2004-0145SERIAL NO.  
NEWAPPLICANT  
Yoko SUZUKI et al.FILING DATE  
January 29, 2004

GROUP

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	5,346,518	9/1994	Baseman et al.			
	AB	6,040,680	3/2000	Toya et al.			
	AC	5,380,503	4/1995	Fujii et al.			
	AD	2001/0011640	8/2001	Suzuki et al.			
	AE	4,967,295	10/1990	Yamauchi et al.			
	AF	6,436,849	8/2002	Hasunuma et al.			
	AG	4,471,716	9/1984	Milliren			
	AH	5,207,548	5/1993	Suffel			
	AI	5,255,797	10/1993	Kos			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	AJ	2000-174109	6/2000	JP				
	AK	9-29020	2/1997	JP				
	AL	6-291177	10/1994	JP				
	AM	7-94577	4/1995	JP				
	AN	617573A		EP				
	AQ	69401023C		DE				
	AP	11-195699	7/1999	JP				
	AQ	2000-223554	8/2000	JP				
	AR	11-314703	10/1993	JP				

## OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AS	Shoko ITO et al., "Wafer ambient control for Agile FAB", 0-7803-6731-6/01/\$10.00©2001 IEEE, pgs. 121-124.
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EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY DOCKET NO.  
2004-0145SERIAL NO.  
NEWLIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)  
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## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	5,749,469	5/1998	Williams			
	AB	6,364,922	4/2002	Tanaka et al.			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	AC	11-40207	2/1999	JP				
	AD	381356B		TW				
	AE	0560379A1	9/1993	EP				
	AF	6-29373	2/1994	JP				
	AG	69304570C		EP				
	AH	2000-311936	11/2000	JP				
	AI	7-293956	11/1995	JP				
	AK	7-125806	5/1998	JP				
	AL	3-143518	6/1991	JP				
	AM	11-274282	10/1999	JP				
	AN	2000-253596	9/2000	JP				
	AO	1297882A1	4/2003	EP				

## OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AP	
	AQ	
	AR	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED